

CLEAN VERSION

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-46.

47. (New) A method of volumetric hyperthermic ablation of tumorous tissue, the method comprising:

providing a tissue ablation apparatus comprising an elongated delivery device including a distal end, a proximal end and lumen; an RF electrode having a tissue piercing distal portion positionable in the delivery device as the delivery device is advanced through tissue, the RF electrode having a non-deployed state when positioned in the delivery device and a deployed state, the RF electrode distal portion exhibiting in the deployed state a curvedly changing direction of travel in tissue as the RF electrode is advanced from the delivery device into a selected tissue site; and an electrode advancement member coupled to the RF electrode for controllably advancing the RF electrode out of the elongated delivery device into the selected tissue site;

introducing the elongated delivery device to the selected tissue site;

advancing the RF electrode from the elongated delivery device to at least partially surround a tissue mass;

delivering energy from the energy delivery device to the tissue mass; and creating a controlled ablation volume at the selected tissue site.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, further comprising:

providing an obturator, the obturator configured to be positionable in one of the elongated delivery device or an introducing device;

introducing or advancing the obturator to the selected tissue site; and utilizing the obturator to introduce the elongated delivery device.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, further comprising:

providing an introducing device;

introducing the obturator through the introducing device;

removing the obturator from the introducing device; and

introducing the elongated delivery device through the introducing device.

50. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the ablation volume includes a margin of non-tumorous tissue substantially surrounding a tumor volume.

51. (New) The method of claim 47, further comprising:
changing a direction of travel of the distal portion of the electrode responsive to a tissue applied force.

52. (New) The method of claim 47, further comprising:
utilizing a changing direction of travel of the distal portion of the electrode to position the electrode in the selected tissue site.

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53. (New) A method of volumetric hyperthermic ablation of tumorous tissue, the method comprising:

providing a tissue ablation system including a obturator, a tissue ablation apparatus including an elongated delivery device including a distal end and a proximal end, an RF electrode including a tissue penetrating distal portion, the RF electrode being positionable in the delivery device as the delivery device is advanced through tissue, the RF electrode having a non-deployed state when positioned in the delivery device and a deployed state, in the deployed state RF electrode distal portion exhibiting a curvedly changing direction of travel in tissue as the RF electrode is advanced from the delivery device into a selected tissue site, and an electrode advancement member coupled to the RF electrode for controllably advancing the RF electrode out of the elongated delivery device into the selected tissue site;

introducing the obturator through tissue to the selected tissue site;
utilizing the obturator to introduce the elongated delivery device to the selected tissue site;
advancing the RF electrode from the elongated delivery device into the selected tissue site to define an ablation volume at the selected tissue site;

delivering energy from the energy delivery device to the selected tissue site; and
creating a controlled ablation volume at the selected tissue site.

54. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein at least a portion of the RF electrode includes an insulator, the method further comprising:

utilizing the insulator to define at least a portion of the ablation volume.